

## **COLLAPSIBLE STEERING COLUMN ASSEMBLY**

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The subject invention provides a collapsible steering column assembly. The  
5 assembly includes a support for attachment to a vehicle. A steering column is  
movably supported by the support. An energy absorbing mechanism interconnects  
the steering column and the support for absorbing energy in response to the steering  
column moving relative to the support during a collision. The energy absorbing  
mechanism includes a elongated element and a brake for variably resisting the  
10 movement of the elongated element and absorbing the energy during the collision.  
The elongated element, in combination with the brake, is capable of adjustment to  
absorb energy at forces of various magnitude such that a universal energy absorbing  
device may be installed on each type of vehicle. Furthermore, the elongated element  
retains structural integrity after absorbing the energy and need not be replaced.